

THE NEW YORK PRESS. EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

Our Leading Universities.

It is generally agreed among our scholars and savants that the great educational need of America is a real university. The chances are that this institution, whenever it arises, will come by a process of development, rather than by a new creation.

In point of numbers, Michigan leads; having 1205 students, of whom 354 are undergraduates. Harvard has 961, of whom 419 are undergraduates. Yale has 682, of whom 490 are undergraduates.

As to variety of States in the Union represented, Michigan does not (to our surprise) exhibit so many as the Eastern colleges, which, in this respect, keep closely together. Yale represents 24 States in her undergraduate department, and 25 in all; Harvard 22 States among her undergraduates, and 25 in all.

The Southern States are gradually being represented once more in our colleges, if not in Congress. At this far advanced rate, more than at Yale, which was formerly the favorite college of Southern students, Harvard has undergraduates from seven slave States, Yale from five, Michigan from four, and so on.

Of course, the New England States are more largely represented in Harvard; the Middle States in Yale; and the Western States in Michigan.

For foreign localities, we find in the Yale catalogue France, Chili, Syria, India, and the Sandwich Islands—most of these being probably represented by the sons of missionaries. The Michigan catalogue shows France, England, Nova Scotia, and the two Canadas.

Harvard always leads Yale in the graduate department, and falls behind in respect to undergraduates. This is partly owing, no doubt, to the higher standard of requirements for admission at Cambridge.

For the present it may practically amount to the same thing, but it is not to be recognized, at the outset, a wider definition of science than that which limits it to physics and natural history.

At Yale, besides the "Sheffield Scientific School," there is an organized department, which provides advanced courses in mathematics, philology, history, and "classics"; though it does not appear how many students it numbers.

There is, on the other hand, a system of University Lectures at Cambridge, adapted to graduates generally, which seems to have more of the university principle about it than anything at Yale.

It appears from this brief summary that we have already three collegiate institutions which, by their numbers and their cosmopolitan character (so far as this continent is concerned), are fairly on the way to become true universities.

It appears also that the organization and plan of study—especially of graduate study—are adapting themselves to the demands of the age. Whatever competition exists between them is of an honorable and useful order; and as, in so large a nation, there must ultimately be more than one great educational centre, we rejoice in the prospect of all.

How to Make Presidents Harmless. The proposal to make the President ineligible for re-election has a good deal to recommend it, but the balance of argument is undoubtedly against it.

properly, a bad man improperly, no matter how we legislate. The President is pretty sure to be elected by a majority, and, unless our whole theory of government be erroneous, the majority, on the whole, in the long run, is pretty sure to be right.

To be sure, a man base enough for this is not likely to reach to high a place; but it must not be forgotten that very bad men go into politics in our day, and some of them may reach the Presidency, and that we do not yet know how a bad President would behave.

In the second place, it would be rather dangerous for the country to deprive itself of the power of using the experience of a man whom it has tried and found both skillful and faithful.

It is not a case for exceptional legislation, or for legislation in detail. Until otherwise ordered, all the Southern States have an undoubted right to avail themselves of the proposed terms of restoration.

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causing and deciding the course to be pursued towards the South. On the other hand, if an opportunity for repentance of the refusal is to be afforded the South, the Senate is authorized that those of the Southern people who favor the acceptance of the amendment as the lesser of two evils may make a last attempt to bring their legislators to reason.

Something is due, too, to the great body of the Union party, who have for the time taken their stand on the Constitutional amendment. It is more than probable that they will sustain Congress in any course which shows full confidence, may be adopted as a consequence of the failure of the amendment.

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